

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claims 1-10 (Canceled).

Claim 11 (New): A method for adjusting automatic transmission ratios by a driver, comprising:

imposing a change of ratio requested by the driver on the transmission, if first conditions are satisfied;

maintaining the ratio until second conditions for returning to an automatic mode are satisfied; and

automatically restoring the automatic mode when the second conditions are satisfied.

Claim 12 (New): The adjustment method as claimed in claim 11, wherein the driver can request an up-shift or a down-shift by use of separate action devices.

Claim 13 (New): The adjustment method as claimed in claim 11, wherein conditions for imposing an up-shift on the transmission when requested by the driver include:

primary speed > threshold, and

lever position = Drive, and

kick down = 0, and

required ratio < maximum ratio allowed by the transmission.

Claim 14 (New): The adjustment method as claimed in claim 11, wherein conditions for imposing a down-shift on the transmission when requested by the driver include:

primary speed < threshold, and

lever position = Drive, and  
kick down = 0, and  
required ratio > minimum ratio allowed by the transmission.

Claim 15 (New): The adjustment method as claimed in claim 13, wherein the automatic mode is restored following an imposed up-shift when:

a down-shift request is made by the driver, or  
primary speed < threshold, or  
engine speed > threshold, or  
lever position ≠ Drive, or  
kick down = 1, or  
timer timed out, or  
ratio required by transmission = adjusted ratio.

Claim 16 (New): The adjustment method as claimed in claim 14, wherein the automatic mode is restored following an imposed down-shift when:

an up-shift request is made by the driver, or  
primary speed < threshold, or  
engine speed > threshold, or  
lever position ≠ Drive, or  
kick down = 1, or  
timer timed out, or  
ratio required by transmission = adjusted ratio.

Claim 17 (New): The adjustment method as claimed in claim 11, wherein information taken into account to perform an adjustment includes:

ratio required by the transmission, and  
up- and down-shift requests by the driver,  
engine load, and  
primary speed, and  
engine speed, and  
kick down information, and  
gearshift lever position information.

Claim 18 (New): The adjustment method as claimed in claim 11, wherein adjustments take priority over complementary functions, or ratio blocking on lifting the foot, or down-shifting on braking.

Claim 19 (New): An adjustment device for implementing a method as claimed in claim 12, wherein the separate action devices include arms disposed near to the steering wheel.

Claim 20 (New): The adjustment device for implementing a method as claimed in claim 12, wherein the separate action devices include arms disposed on the steering wheel.